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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS
ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 28 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a message addressed to you by the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin.

I should be grateful if you would distribute the present letter and its annex as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty", "General and complete disarmament" and "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

ANNEX

Message dated 27 January 1992 from the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, to the Secretary-General

Now that Russia has cast off the fetters of totalitarianism and is restored to freedom and democracy, the most important task facing it is the definition of its role in the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security. This includes its role viewed in the light of the special responsibility conferred on Russia by the status of permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, in a territory which is the ancestral native land of many peoples of several continents, Russia is called upon to perform at last its unique historical mission and to become a link joining East and West.

The performance of this key task presupposes two very important prerequisites: the creation of stability within the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the implementation of constructive cooperation with other States in the strengthening of international security.

Motivated by a recognition of this lofty responsibility towards the world, Russia and also Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have taken steps designed to ensure reliable joint control over nuclear weapons and non-proliferation of such weapons and we have acted to preserve a nucleus of unified armed forces with a joint command and to promote agreement between nationalities.

Together with other members of the international community, Russia is prepared to make its weighty contribution to the creation of a single global space of cooperation and security. We intend to be guided by precisely this long-term goal when we formulate and implement our policy with regard to arms limitation and reduction.

The swift march of freedom, which in the course of a few months toppled the remaining imperial structures, has with historical inevitability restored to Russians the true values shared by the rest of the civilized world - personal freedom, freedom of choice, initiative and entrepreneurship and the rule of law.

The "iron curtain", which was reinforced by the "beseiged fortress" doctrine imposed on the people and which separated us from the rest of the world, has finally collapsed.

The elimination of the artificial division of the world into two hostile camps is the great event of the end of the twentieth century. The world is again finding its unity on the solid basis of democratic values and human rights. Mankind is entering a new era.

In the existing conditions of qualitatively new political realities, the international community must radically reinvestigate the problems of ensuring international and national security.

As far as Russia is concerned, the concept of its nation-wide security will henceforth be based on principles of effective global and regional military and political stability.

The construction of a new world order based on general democratic values and norms of law requires all States to adopt radical measures to dismantle the superfluous military capabilities preserved through inertia and to reduce them to such levels that peoples will at last be liberated from fear of the possible destruction of human civilization itself.

As we advance towards a humane and demilitarized world order, we must not, of course, overlook the challenges to the international community and to stability and prosperity on the planet which may be created by the wishes of other irresponsible politicians. A united and indivisible world, which is advocated by Russia and by all the States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States, presupposes the existence of effective mechanisms of collective opposition to any act of aggression and international lawlessness. The structures of national armed forces must to a greater extent than is now the case be geared to the goals of ensuring collective security. Accordingly, Russia will do everything possible to promote the further strengthening of the role of the United Nations and its component institutions in the maintenance of peace. If necessary, this will include the provision of our armed forces, in accordance with constitutional procedures, to participate in appropriate international activities.

Russia declares that it is prepared to cooperate with all States and international organizations to this end. It reaffirms that it will not use armed force against any State or States in any circumstances whatsoever, except in response to aggression against Russia, its friends and allies, and will not be the first to use nuclear weapons.

A key element of our efforts to create a single global security space will be active participation and cooperation in the process of arms limitation and reduction.

Disarmament is a traditional priority of Russia. This goes back to the Hague conferences at the end of the last and beginning of the present century, of which Russia was the initiator. And today disarmament is seen by us as one of the most important instruments for ensuring national security and strengthening international peace and stability.

As the successor State to the former USSR, Russia reaffirms all its obligations under bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements in force and signed on the subject of arms limitation and disarmament and will strictly observe them.

As regards military-political and military-strategic questions, we shall steadfastly abide by the following long-term policies.

We shall organize the armed forces in such a manner that they cannot be used for purposes other than defence and peace-keeping activities in accordance with decisions of the international community.

On the road to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere, we shall strive to reduce nuclear forces to the minimum level which would guarantee that there will be no war. Incentives to making a first disabling strike must also be eliminated.

We are no longer adversaries of the United States and the other NATO countries and we consider as obsolete a situation in which we aim our nuclear sights at each other. We must by joint efforts decisively deliver ourselves from this legacy of the period of confrontation and "cold war".

The processes of nuclear disarmament, which the interests of the peoples of the world so insistently require us to implement, will be incomplete and inadequate if they are conducted solely within the framework of relations between Russia and the United Nations. The other nuclear Powers - China, the United Kingdom and France - must not remain on the sidelines and continue the uncontrolled build-up of their offensive nuclear arsenals. This could already in the next few years destabilize the international situation. They must also participate in the processes of genuine nuclear disarmament.

In addition to the elimination of nuclear weapons, we support the complete elimination of all other types of weapons of mass destruction under effective control.

We favour the adoption of effective measures to strengthen the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction and also of the means of their delivery.

We advocate the maximum mutual openness and predictability, as well as measures of trust in the military sphere, including military doctrines, defence budgets, plans for the organization and activities of armed forces and the international arms trade.

We are open to cooperation in the elaboration of additional measures designed to avert the outbreak of war through accident, miscalculation or terrorism and to prevent military incidents.

We shall cooperate and participate in the creation of collective security structures on the basis of the United Nations Charter.

The pursuit of these long-term disarmament policies requires the very rapid adoption of a series of effective measures - both in cooperation with our partners and unilaterally - in all the key directions of the process of arms limitation and reduction.

Strategic offensive arms

The Treaty on strategic offensive arms has been submitted for ratification to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. The process of ratification of the Treaty has also begun in the United States.

Russia wishes not to rest on its laurels but, together with the United States, to move forward ever faster along the road to the curtailment of superfluous military structures, particularly nuclear structures. Further to the Treaty on strategic offensive arms, we have already taken a whole series of major unilateral measures. About 600 strategic ballistic missiles have been removed from combat duty, a whole series of military programmes for the creation of new types of strategic offensive arms has been curtailed, and measures have been taken to increase strategic stability and predictability.

As you see, the policy of good example in relations between Russia and the United States in the matter of the reduction of nuclear arsenals is already bearing real fruit and it must be developed by every possible means.

With this aim, we have decided on new initiatives designed to accelerate the process of nuclear disarmament.

In addition, I have sent President George Bush the proposals of Russia for new, far-reaching reductions in strategic offensive arms.

Following the reductions which we have proposed on each side, there would remain a total of 2,000 to 2,500 strategic nuclear devices. In other words, the existing strategic arsenals of Russia and the United States would be radically reduced.

I intend at the forthcoming meeting with President George Bush at Camp David to discuss in detail and in a constructive spirit questions relating to further major reductions in strategic offensive arms.

Tactical nuclear weapons

We have also already undertaken, in parallel with the United States of America, major measures to cut tactical nuclear weapons. Currently, such weapons of the former USSR are located in the territory of three States - Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Pursuant to the agreement reached between the States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States, all tactical nuclear munitions will be relocated to Russia by 1 July 1992.

Production of nuclear warheads for ground-launched tactical nuclear missiles, nuclear artillery shells and nuclear mines has been halted. Stocks of such tactical nuclear munitions will be eliminated.

I say also that Russia will eliminate one third of the sea-launched tactical nuclear weapons and half of the nuclear warheads for ground-to-air missiles. We have already taken steps towards this end.

With a view to the total elimination of tactical nuclear weapons in the foreseeable future, Russia will, in addition to these steps that are already being taken, cut by half its stocks of air-launched tactical nuclear munitions.

Anti-ballistic missiles and space

Russia confirms its adherence to the Treaty on anti-ballistic missiles, which is one of the effective means of limiting the strategic arms race and an important factor in the maintenance of strategic stability.

While maintaining this position of principle, we are prepared to continue open-minded discussion of the United States proposal on limited non-nuclear anti-ballistic missile systems. Our final attitude to this idea will be determined by the extent to which it meets the objective of strengthening strategic stability against a background of sharp cuts in strategic offensive arms.

I declare Russia's readiness, on a basis of mutuality with the United States of America, to eliminate existing anti-satellite systems and to work out an agreement for a total ban on weapons specially designed to attack satellites.

Prohibition of nuclear weapons tests and of the production of fissile materials for use in armaments

Russia is resolutely in favour of all nuclear weapons tests being prohibited. We are abiding by the one-year moratorium on nuclear explosions proclaimed in October 1991, and we hope that the other nuclear Powers will also refrain from conducting nuclear tests. An atmosphere of mutual restraint would promote the reaching of agreement not to conduct such tests at all.

In the interests of finally resolving this problem, we propose to the United States of America the renewal of the phased bilateral talks on the further limitation of nuclear weapons tests.

Russia intends to continue implementing the programme for halting the production of weapons-grade plutonium. Industrial reactors for the production of weapons-grade plutonium will be shut down by the year 2000, and some of them, under an accelerated timetable, as early as 1993. We confirm our proposal to the United States of America to reach agreement on a monitored cessation of the production of fissile materials for weapons.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery

As the successor State to the USSR, Russia naturally reaffirms its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including those devolving on it as a depositary. We are counting on the early accession to the Treaty, as non-nuclear States, of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and also of the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Russia declares its full support for the activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and advocates a strengthening of the effectiveness of its safeguards.

We are pleased that an understanding has been reached on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone on the Korean Peninsula.

We intend to take further steps to ensure that export from Russia should not lead to the proliferation of means of mass destruction. From the specific standpoint, we are as of now working on the issues involved in arriving at the principle of "comprehensive IAEA guarantees" as a condition of our peaceful nuclear exports and in officially adhering, as an equal participant, to the international regime for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technology. We support the efforts of the "Australian group" with respect to the monitoring of chemical exports.

It is our intention to adopt domestic legislation regulating the export from Russia of "dual-purpose" materials, equipment and technologies which could be used to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as military missiles. We are also establishing an effective system for the State monitoring of such exports. We shall institute the closest cooperation and coordination between all States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States on these issues.

Russia supports the guidelines approved at London in October 1991 by the major conventional weapons exporting countries on trade in armaments, and will abide by them.

Conventional weapons

The treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe has been submitted to the Russian Parliament for ratification. There is an understanding with the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States to whose territory the applicability of the treaty extends that they will also ratify it.

Russia confirms its intention, jointly with the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States, to reduce the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by 700,000.

Russia attaches great importance both to the talks currently under way in Vienna on strength reductions and confidence-building measures and to the forthcoming new talks, after the "Helsinki-II" conference, on security and cooperation in Europe. These new talks could become a full-time Europe-wide forum for seeking approaches to the establishment of a collective Europe-wide security system.

Russia will seek to reach agreement in negotiations with China on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in the frontier region.

Another important contribution to the strengthening of stability will be made by our decision not to hold in 1992 major manoeuvres involving more than 13,000 troops, and this not only in the European, but also in the Asian, part of the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We also hope that there is a possibility of signing in the very near future a treaty on an "open skies" regime.

Chemical weapons

We are in favour of the earliest possible conclusion - in 1992 - of a global convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons which, while effectively barring the possession of chemical weapons, would not impair the lawful economic interests of its parties.

Russia is abiding by the agreement signed with the United States in 1990 on the non-production and destruction of chemical weapons. However, the deadlines it specifies for the destruction of such weapons will require some adjustment.

All the chemical weapons of the former USSR are located in the territory of Russia, and it will take responsibility for destroying them. We are preparing a State programme for destroying such weapons, and are ready to cooperate in this matter with the United States of America and other interested countries.

Biological weapons

Russia is in favour of the strict implementation of the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons and of the establishment on a multilateral basis of an appropriate monitoring mechanism and for the implementation of measures to build confidence and promote openness.

Russia, as a party to the 1972 Convention, repudiates those parts of the reservations made by the USSR to the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of chemical and bacteriological methods which relate to the possibility of retaliatory use of biological weapons.

Defence budget

Russia will continue to make substantial cuts in its defence budget and to apply them to social issues.

In 1990-1991, defence expenditures in comparable prices were already reduced by 20 per cent, and within this figure expenditures on the purchase of armaments and technology were cut by 30 per cent.

In 1992, we intend to cut military expenditures by a further 10 per cent (in 1991 prices). The volume of arms production in the coming year will be approximately half that for last year.

Conversion of military production

Russia welcomes the international cooperation in the field of conversion of military production, and will for its part encourage it by establishing a "most favourable treatment regime" and instituting tax concessions for relevant joint projects. Conversion will be carried out at maximum advantage to the nation.

These are the main lines of Russia's policy in the field of arms reduction and disarmament. We are open to ideas and proposals from other States aimed at strengthening international peace and security. Through joint efforts, a stable world can and must be guaranteed.

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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 28 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Annex, page 4, fifth paragraph, line 4

For United Nations read United States

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CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 27 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your kind attention, the text of a communiqué released by my Government on 23 January 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Pedro Comissario AFONSO
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative to the United Nations

ANNEX

Communiqué released by the Government of Mozambique
on 23 January 1992

Following a military operation carried out by Mozambican governmental forces on 16 January 1992 against a RENAMO stronghold in the region of Ngungue, Estompene, elevation 314, an area located 5 kilometres from the border with South Africa, our forces spotted a light aircraft overflying the area of operations.

At the same time, the Government forces also spotted what appeared to be a white Toyota land-cruiser pick-up truck approaching the area and withdrawing shortly afterwards. This was immediately followed by sounds of machine-gun fire accompanied by a huge explosion which released a thick smog covering the entire area occupied by governmental forces.

As a result, our forces started to develop strange reactions and abnormal sensations, namely, skin irritations, burning, deep thirst and weakness.

Subsequently, some soldiers died; others were rendered paralysed, mentally affected; and others lost their sight and hearing abilities.

Preliminary medical reports from the military hospital in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, suggest the possibility of chemical warfare intoxication and contamination.

At the invitation of the Mozambican authorities, a medical team from South Africa made up of military and civilian personnel was dispatched to Maputo, where it joined a national medical team in the collection of evidence from the victims and from the site of the incident, with a view to determining the exact nature of the explosion.

Some of the evidence collected was left with the South African team, while the other part remained with Mozambican authorities, for further studies and analysis by a third country or relevant institution for the determination of the facts.

The Government of Mozambique launches an urgent appeal to the international community for assistance in its efforts to determine the nature of the weapon involved, as well as the treatment of injured people in this grave incident.

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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 29 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the statement of 27 January 1992 by the President of the Russian Federation, B. N. Yeltsin, entitled "Russia's Policy in the Field of Arms Limitation and Reduction".

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as an official document of the Security Council in connection with the Security Council Summit Meeting, to take place on 31 January 1992, and also as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under the agenda items entitled "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty", "General and complete disarmament" and "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session".

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, B. N. YELTSIN, ENTITLED "RUSSIA'S POLICY IN THE FIELD OF ARMS LIMITATION AND REDUCTION"

27 January 1992

My address today is devoted to a vitally important issue.

I am referring to practical measures by Russia in the field of arms limitation and reduction.

Our position of principle is as follows: nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the world must be eliminated.

Of course, this must be done gradually and on an equal footing.

In this vitally important task, we are open to cooperation with all States and international organizations, including cooperation within the framework of the United Nations.

The measures which I shall speak about today have been prepared on the basis of ongoing cooperation with the States participating in the Commonwealth and are in accordance with the agreements reached at the meetings of their leaders in Minsk, Alma-Ata and Moscow.

Russia considers itself the successor to the USSR with regard to the responsibility for carrying out international obligations.

We reaffirm all the obligations under bilateral and multilateral agreements in the field of arms limitation and reduction which were signed by the Soviet Union and are currently in force.

The leadership of Russia confirms its commitment to the policy of radically reducing nuclear weapons and ensuring the maximum security of nuclear arms and all installations related to their development, production and maintenance.

Russia is putting forward an initiative to establish an international agency for the reduction of nuclear weapons.

At subsequent stages, this agency could gradually assume the task of monitoring the entire nuclear cycle, from uranium mining and the production of deuterium and tritium to waste storage.

The measures which we are undertaking in the field of disarmament do not in any way undermine the defence capability of Russia or the States of the Commonwealth. The specific aim is a reasonable minimum sufficient level of nuclear and conventional weapons.

This is our main principle in building armed forces.

Its implementation will make it possible to save considerable resources. They will be used for civilian purposes and to carry out reforms.

Today, conditions are ripe for taking a number of major new steps aimed at arms reduction. We are taking some of them on a unilateral basis and others under conditions of reciprocity.

We have done and intend to do the following as a matter of top priority:

First, in the field of strategic offensive arms. The Treaty on strategic offensive arms has been submitted for ratification to the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. The process of ratification of the Treaty has also begun in the United States. I consider that the implementation of this highly important document, including its adoption by Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, must be carried out as expeditiously as possible.

But even before the entry into force of the Treaty, Russia has taken a number of major steps aimed at reducing its strategic arsenal:

- About 600 land-launched strategic ballistic missiles, or almost 1,250 nuclear devices, have been removed from stand-by alert;

- 130 underground launching silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles have been eliminated or are about to be eliminated;

- The missile launching installations on six nuclear submarines are ready for dismantling;

- Programmes for developing or modernizing several types of strategic offensive arms have been terminated.

The strategic nuclear arms deployed in the territory of Ukraine will be dismantled in shorter periods of time than previously planned. The corresponding agreements have been reached.

I would emphasize here that this does not involve unilateral disarmament on our part. The United States is taking parallel steps on the basis of goodwill.

Nevertheless, it is now possible and necessary to make considerably more progress in this direction.

The following decisions have been recently taken:

- The production of TU-160 and TU-95 MS heavy bombers is being halted;

- The production of existing types of long-range air-launched cruise missiles is being halted. On a reciprocal basis with the United States, we are prepared to renounce the development of new types of such missiles;

- The production of existing types of long-range sea-launched nuclear cruise missiles is being curtailed. No new types of such missiles will be developed. At the same time, we are prepared - on a reciprocal basis - to eliminate all existing long-range sea-launched nuclear cruise missiles;

- We are halting exercises using a large number of heavy bombers. This means that no more than 30 may be used in a single exercise;

- The number of nuclear submarines equipped with ballistic missiles on combat-ready patrol has been halved and will be further reduced. We are prepared to halt, on a reciprocal basis, the practice of combat-ready patrolling by such submarines;

- Within a period of three years, instead of seven years, Russia will reduce, to an agreed level, the number of strategic offensive arms on stand-by alert;

- In this way, we shall reach the level provided for under the corresponding Treaty four years earlier.

If there is mutual understanding on the part of the United States, we could make even speedier progress in this direction.

We believe that the strategic offensive arms still in the possession of Russia and the United States of America after the reduction should not be aimed at targets in each other's territory. In the next few days, important talks will take place with the leaders of the Western countries. Proposals have been drawn up for a new, deep cut in strategic offensive arms, which will reduce them several-fold, to 2,000-2,500 strategic nuclear weapons on each side.

We hope that the other nuclear Powers - China, France and the United Kingdom - will also join in the process of nuclear disarmament.

Second, tactical nuclear weapons. Major measures have already been undertaken, in parallel with the United States of America, to make cuts in these weapons.

Production of nuclear warheads for ground-launched tactical nuclear missiles, nuclear artillery shells and nuclear mines has recently been halted. Stocks of such tactical nuclear munitions will be eliminated.

Russia will eliminate one third of its sea-launched tactical nuclear weapons and half of its nuclear warheads for ground-to-air missiles. Steps have already been taken towards this end.

We also intend to cut by half the stocks of air-launched tactical nuclear munitions.

The remaining air-launched tactical nuclear weapons could, on the basis of reciprocity with the United States of America, be removed from the fighting units of the front-line (tactical) air forces and located at centralized storages bases.

Third, anti-ballistic missiles and space. Russia confirms its adherence to the Treaty on anti-ballistic missiles. It is an important factor in the maintenance of strategic stability.

We are prepared to continue open-minded discussions of the United States proposal on limited non-nuclear anti-ballistic missile systems. Our principle is well known. If this will strengthen strategic stability in the world, and Russia's security, we will support such an approach.

I also declare Russia's readiness, on a basis of reciprocity with the United States of America, to eliminate existing anti-satellite systems and to work out an agreement for a total ban on weapons specially designed to attack satellites.

We are prepared to work out jointly, and then to establish and jointly operate, a global defence system to replace the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Fourth, nuclear weapons tests and the production of fissile materials for use in armaments. Russia is resolutely in favour of all nuclear weapons tests being prohibited. We are abiding by the one-year moratorium on nuclear explosions proclaimed in October 1991, and we hope that the other nuclear Powers will also refrain from conducting nuclear tests. An atmosphere of mutual restraint would promote the reaching of agreement not to conduct such tests at all.

In the interests of finally resolving this problem, we may, while gradually phasing out tests, propose to the United States of America a renewal of the bilateral talks on the further limitation of nuclear-weapons tests.

Russia intends to continue implementing the programme for halting the production of weapons-grade plutonium. Industrial reactors for the production of weapons-grade plutonium will be shut down by the year 2000, and some of them, under an accelerated timetable, as early as 1993. We confirm our proposal to the United States of America to reach agreement on a monitored cessation of the production of fissile materials for weapons.

Fifth, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of their delivery. Russia reaffirms its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, including those devolving on it as a depositary. We are counting on the early accession to the Treaty, as non-nuclear States, of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine, and also of the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Russia declares its full support for the activity of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and advocates a strengthening of the effectiveness of its safeguards.

We intend to take further steps to ensure that our exports do not lead to the proliferation of means of mass destruction.

Work is now under way on Russia's adherence to the principle of "comprehensive IAEA safeguards" as a condition of our peaceful nuclear exports.

Russia intends in principle to join the international regime for the non-proliferation of missiles and missile technology. We support the efforts of the "Australian group" with respect to the monitoring of chemical exports.

The Russian Federation proposes to adopt domestic legislation regulating the export from Russia of "dual-purpose" materials, equipment and technologies which could be used to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as military missiles.

A system is being established for the State monitoring of such exports. We shall institute the closest cooperation and coordination among all States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States on these issues.

Russia supports the guidelines for trade in armaments approved in London in October 1991.

Sixth, conventional weapons. The Treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe has been submitted to the Russian Parliament for ratification. The other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States to whose territory the applicability of the treaty extends also attach importance to ratifying it.

Russia confirms its intention, jointly with the other States participating in the Commonwealth of Independent States, to reduce the armed forces of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by 700,000 in actual strength.

Russia attaches great importance to the talks currently under way in Vienna on strength reductions and confidence-building measures, and also to the new talks on security and cooperation in Europe.

The latter could become a full-time Europe-wide forum for seeking approaches to the establishment of a collective Europe-wide security system.

Russia, in cooperation with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, will seek to reach agreement in negotiations with China on the reduction of armed forces and armaments in the frontier region.

It has been decided not to hold in 1992 major manoeuvres involving more than 13,000 troops, and this not only in the European, but also in the Asian, part of the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We also hope that there is a possibility of signing in the very near future a treaty on an "open skies" regime.

Seventh, chemical weapons. We are in favour of the earliest possible conclusion - in 1992 - of a global convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons. This is needed in order effectively to bar the possession of chemical weapons, without impairing the lawful economic interests of the parties.

Russia is abiding by the agreement signed with the United States in 1990 on the non-production and destruction of chemical weapons. However, the deadlines it specifies for the destruction of such weapons will require some adjustment.

All the chemical weapons of the former USSR are located in the territory of Russia, and it will take responsibility for destroying them. We are preparing a State programme for this purpose.

We are ready to cooperate in this matter with the United States of America and other interested countries.

Eighth, biological weapons. Russia is in favour of the strict implementation of the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons, the establishment on a multilateral basis of an appropriate monitoring mechanism, and the implementation of measures to build confidence and promote openness.

In view of the fact that the implementation of the Convention is lagging behind, I declare that Russia repudiates those parts of the reservations which relate to the possibility of retaliatory use of biological weapons. They were made by the USSR to the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of chemical and bacteriological methods.

Ninth, the defence budget. Russia will continue to make substantial cuts in its defence budget and to apply them to social issues.

In 1990-1991, defence expenditures in comparable prices were already reduced by 20 per cent, and within this figure expenditures on the purchase of armaments and technology were cut by 30 per cent.

In 1992, we intend to cut military expenditures by a further 10 per cent (in 1991 prices). The volume of arms purchases in the coming year will be approximately half that for last year.

Tenth, conversion. Russia welcomes the international cooperation in the field of conversion of military production, and believes that it should be intensified.

For our part, we will encourage such cooperation by establishing a "most favourable treatment regime" and instituting tax concessions for relevant joint projects.

Citizens of Russia!

I have just described the Russian Federation's plan of action in relation to arms reduction and disarmament. I hope it will enjoy your support and meet with understanding on the part of all peoples of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

I am convinced that it is fully in the interests of our country and the other States of the world. If it can be made a reality, our life will become not only more tranquil and secure, but also more prosperous.

A few hours ago the President of the United States of America, George Bush, addressing the American people, made a proposal for a radical reduction in nuclear potential and the strengthening of measures to promote stability in relations between our countries.

He and I have had preliminary consultations on these matters, and are engaging in a dialogue on the practical implementation of this policy and of the initiatives that have been put forward. It is apparent that the positions of the two sides are not far apart.

This augurs well for success in reducing offensive nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.

UNITED
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General Assembly Security Council

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30 January 1992

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
NARCOTIC DRUGS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 29 January 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Permanent Representatives of the member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Singapore Declaration of 1992, signed by the ASEAN Heads of State and Government at the conclusion of their summit meeting, held at Singapore on 27 and 28 January 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Development and international economic cooperation", "United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", "Human resources development", "Social development" and "Narcotic drugs", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manuel MENDEZ
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Singapore declaration of 1992

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), are encouraged by the achievements of ASEAN in the last 25 years and are convinced that ASEAN cooperation remains vital to the well-being of our peoples.

2. Having reviewed the profound international political and economic changes that have occurred since the end of the Cold War and considered their implications for ASEAN, we declare that:

(a) ASEAN shall move towards a higher plane of political and economic cooperation to secure regional peace and prosperity;

(b) ASEAN shall constantly seek to safeguard its collective interests in response to the formation of large and powerful economic groupings among the developed countries, in particular through the promotion of an open international economic regime and by stimulating economic cooperation in the region;

(c) ASEAN shall seek avenues to engage member States in new areas of cooperation in security matters; and

(d) ASEAN shall forge a closer relationship based on friendship and cooperation with the Indo-Chinese countries, following the settlement on Cambodia.

Political and security cooperation

3. In the field of political and security cooperation, we have agreed that:

(a) ASEAN welcomes accession by all countries in South-East Asia to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in South-East Asia, which will provide a common framework for wider regional cooperation embracing the whole of South-East Asia;

(b) ASEAN will also seek the cognizance of the United Nations for the Treaty, through such means as an appropriate resolution. This will signify ASEAN's commitment to the centrality of the United Nations role in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as promoting cooperation for socio-economic development;

(c) ASEAN could use established forums to promote external dialogues on enhancing security in the region, as well as intra-ASEAN dialogues on ASEAN security cooperation (such as the regional security seminars, held at Manila and Bangkok in 1991, and the workshops on the South China Sea, held at Bali in

1990 and Bandung in 1991), taking full cognizance of the Declaration of ASEAN Concord. To enhance this effort, ASEAN should intensify its external dialogues in political and security matters by using the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conferences (PMC);

(d) ASEAN has made major strides in building cooperative ties with States of the Asia-Pacific region and shall continue to accord them a high priority;

(e) ASEAN will seek to realize the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and a South-East Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) in consultation with friendly countries, taking into account changing circumstances;

(f) ASEAN will closely cooperate with the United Nations and the international community in ensuring the full implementation of the Peace Agreements signed in Paris in October 1991. ASEAN supports the Cambodian Supreme National Council in calling on the United Nations Secretary-General to despatch the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) as early as possible in order to preserve the momentum of the peace process and to implement the gains realized by the signing of the Paris Peace Agreements. ASEAN calls upon all parties in Cambodia to implement seriously the process of national reconciliation, which is essential to a genuine and lasting peace in Cambodia; and

(g) ASEAN will play an active part in international programmes for the reconstruction of Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

4. Conscious of the central role of the United Nations in the post-Cold War world, we agree that:

(a) The proposed summit of members of the United Nations Security Council should help shape the role of the United Nations in the promotion of a more equitable international political and economic order, and for the democratization of the decision-making processes of the United Nations in order to make the Organization truly effective in meeting its obligations;

(b) ASEAN will participate actively in efforts to ensure that the United Nations is a key instrument for maintaining international peace and security; and

(c) ASEAN will encourage all efforts to strengthen the United Nations, including its role and capabilities in peace-keeping and peace-making, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Directions in ASEAN economic cooperation

5. In the field of economic cooperation, we have agreed that:

(a) To further accelerate joint efforts in enhancing intra-ASEAN economic cooperation, ASEAN shall adopt appropriate new economic measures, as contained in the Framework Agreement on Enhancing ASEAN Economic Cooperation directed towards sustaining ASEAN economic growth and development, which are essential to the stability and prosperity of the region;

(b) ASEAN shall establish the ASEAN Free Trade Area using the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme as the main mechanism within a time-frame of 15 years beginning 1 January 1993, with the ultimate effective tariffs ranging from 0 per cent to 5 per cent. ASEAN member States have identified the following groups of products to be included in the CEPT Scheme for accelerated tariff reductions: vegetable oils; cement; chemicals; pharmaceuticals; fertilizer; plastics; rubber products; leather products; pulp; textiles; ceramic and glass products; gems and jewellery; copper cathodes; electronics; and wooden and rattan furniture;

(c) ASEAN shall increase investments, industrial linkages and complementarity by adopting new and innovative measures, as well as strengthening existing arrangements in ASEAN and providing flexibility for new forms of industrial cooperation;

(d) ASEAN shall strengthen and develop further cooperation in the field of capital markets, and shall encourage and facilitate free movement of capital and other financial resources;

(e) ASEAN shall further enhance regional cooperation to provide a safe, efficient and innovative transportation and communications infrastructure network;

(f) ASEAN shall also continue to improve and develop the intra-country postal and telecommunications system to provide cost-effective, high quality and customer-oriented services;

(g) ASEAN shall adopt joint efforts to strengthen trade promotion and negotiations on ASEAN agricultural products in order to enhance ASEAN's competitive posture, and to sustain the expansion of ASEAN agricultural exports in the international markets;

(h) ASEAN acknowledges that sub-regional arrangements among themselves, or between ASEAN member States and non-ASEAN economies, could complement overall ASEAN economic cooperation;

(i) ASEAN recognizes the importance of strengthening and/or establishing cooperation with other countries, regional/multilateral economic organizations, as well as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and an East

Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC). With regard to APEC, ASEAN attaches importance to APEC's fundamental objective of sustaining the growth and dynamism of the Asia-Pacific region. With respect to an EAEC, ASEAN recognizes that consultations on issues of common concern among East-Asian economies, as and when the need arises, could contribute to expanding cooperation among the region's economies, and the promotion of an open and free global trading system;

(j) Further, recognizing the importance of non-tariff and non-border areas of cooperation to complement tariff liberalization in increasing regional trade and investment, ASEAN shall further explore cooperation in these areas with a view to making recommendations to the Fifth ASEAN Summit;

(k) ASEAN shall continue with its concerted efforts in the promotion of tourism, particularly in making the Visit ASEAN Year 1992 a success;

(l) ASEAN shall continue to step up cooperation in other economic-related areas, such as science and technology transfer and human resource development;

(m) ASEAN shall enhance cooperation and collective action in international and interregional forums, as well as in international organizations and regional groupings. ASEAN shall also continue to enhance relations with its dialogue partners and other producing/consuming countries towards the advancement of the commodity sector in the region and in addressing international commodity issues;

(n) ASEAN recognizes that sustained economic growth requires considerable inputs of energy. As member States continue to industrialize and strengthen their industrial base, ASEAN shall focus and strengthen cooperation in energy security, conservation and the search for alternative fuels;

(o) ASEAN recognizes the complementarity of trade and investment opportunities and therefore encourages, among others, increased cooperation and exchanges among the ASEAN private sectors, and the consideration of appropriate policies for greater intra-ASEAN investments;

(p) ASEAN shall continue to uphold the principles of free and open trade embodied in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and work towards maintaining and strengthening an open multilateral trading system;

(q) ASEAN shall work collectively to ensure that the Uruguay Round addresses the key concerns and interests of the ASEAN economies, and adopt a pragmatic and realistic approach, in using the draft Final Text as at 20 December 1991 as a reasonable basis for completing negotiations; and

(r) ASEAN strongly urges major trading countries to settle their differences on agriculture and other areas, and likewise use the draft Final Text to work towards an early and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round.

Review of ASEAN's external relations

6. In reviewing ASEAN's external relations, we have agreed that:

(a) ASEAN, as part of an increasingly interdependent world, should intensify cooperative relationships with its dialogue partners, namely, Australia, Canada, the European Community, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand and the United States of America, and engage in consultative relationships with interested non-dialogue countries and international organizations; and

(b) While ASEAN's cooperative relationships with the dialogue partners have made significant progress, ASEAN should strengthen existing dialogue mechanisms and develop new ones where necessary for the enhancement of economic relations with these countries, especially ASEAN's major economic partners.

ASEAN functional cooperation

7. In the field of functional cooperation, we have agreed that:

(a) The ASEAN member countries shall continue to enhance awareness of ASEAN among the people in the region through the expansion of ASEAN studies as part of South-East Asian Studies in the school and university curricula and the introduction of ASEAN student exchange programmes at the secondary and tertiary levels of education;

(b) ASEAN should help hasten the development of a regional identity and solidarity, and promote human resource development by considering ways to strengthen further the existing network of the leading universities and institutions of higher learning in the ASEAN region, with a view to ultimately establishing an ASEAN University based on this expanded network;

(c) ASEAN functional cooperation shall be designed for a wider involvement and increased participation by women in the development of the ASEAN countries in order to meet their needs and aspirations. This cooperation shall also extend to the development of children to realize their full potential;

(d) The ASEAN member countries shall continue to play an active part in protecting the environment by continuing to cooperate in promoting the principle of sustainable development and integrating it into all aspects of development;

(e) ASEAN member countries should continue to enhance environmental cooperation, particularly in issues of transboundary pollution, natural disasters, forest fires and in addressing the anti-tropical timber campaign;

(f) The developed countries should commit themselves to assist developing countries by providing them with new and additional financial resources, as well as the transfer of and access to environmentally-sound technology on concessional and preferential terms;

(g) The developed countries should also help to maintain an international environment supportive of economic growth and development;

(h) ASEAN looks forward to seeing these commitments reflected in the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 at Rio de Janeiro;

(i) As non-governmental organizations play an important role in social development, ASEAN shall encourage the exchange of information among non-governmental organizations in the region and help expand their participation in intra-ASEAN functional cooperation;

(j) ASEAN shall intensify its cooperation in overcoming the serious problem of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking at the national, regional and international levels; and

(k) ASEAN shall make a coordinated effort in curbing the spread of AIDS by exchanging information on AIDS, particularly in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes against the deadly disease.

Restructuring of ASEAN institutions

8. To strengthen ASEAN, we have agreed that:

(a) ASEAN Heads of Government shall meet formally every three years with informal meetings in between;

(b) The ASEAN organizational structure, especially the ASEAN secretariat, shall be streamlined and strengthened with more resources;

(c) The Secretary-General of the ASEAN secretariat shall be redesignated as the Secretary-General of ASEAN with an enlarged mandate to initiate, advise, coordinate and implement ASEAN activities;

(d) The Secretary-General of ASEAN shall be appointed on merit and accorded ministerial status;

(e) The professional staff of the ASEAN secretariat shall be appointed on the principle of open recruitment and based on a quota system to ensure representation of all ASEAN countries in the secretariat;

(f) The five present ASEAN Economic Committees shall be dissolved and the Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) shall be tasked to handle all aspects of ASEAN economic cooperation; and

(g) A ministerial-level Council shall be established to supervise, coordinate and review the implementation of the Agreement on the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

DONE in Singapore on the 28th day of January 1992.

For Brunei Darussalam:
HAJI HASSANAL BOLKLAH
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Republic of Indonesia:
SOEHARTO
President

For Malaysia:
Dr. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines:
CORAZON C. AQUINO
President

For the Republic of Singapore:
GOH CHOK TONG
Prime Minister

For the Kingdom of Thailand:
ANAND PANYARACHUN
Prime Minister

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

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3 February 1992
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Forty-seventh session

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 3 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a statement of the Presidency of the European Community on the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia, issued at Lisbon on 16 January 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Statement by the Presidency of the European Community on the recognition of Yugoslav Republics, issued at Lisbon on 16 January 1992

The Presidency wishes to inform that, in conformity with the declaration of 16 December 1991 on the recognition of States and its application to Yugoslavia, and in the light of the advice of the Arbitration Commission, the Community and its member States have now decided, in accordance with these provisions and in accordance with their respective procedures, to proceed with the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia.

With regard to the other two Republics which have expressed the wish to become independent, there are still important matters to be addressed before a similar step by the Community and its member States will be taken.

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General Assembly Security Council

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5 February 1992

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTREIS
EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
NARCOTIC DRUGS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 30 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Colombo Declaration issued at the Sixth Meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 21 December 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex is circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council", "Question of Palestine", "Policies of apartheid of the Government of

South Africa", "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", "Development and international economic cooperation", "Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind", "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries", "External debt crisis and development", "Advancement of women", "Narcotic drugs" and "Human rights questions", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Stanley KALPAGE
Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka
to the United Nations

ANNEX

COLOMBO DECLARATION

The Colombo Declaration of the Heads of State or Government of the Member Countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation issued on 21st December 1991

INTRODUCTION

1. The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia; the King of Bhutan, His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck; the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Narasimha Rao; the President of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom; the Prime Minister of Nepal, the Rt. Hon. Girija Prasad Koirala; the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif and the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Ranasinghe Premadasa met at the Sixth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at Colombo, Sri Lanka on 21st December, 1991.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

2. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of SAARC. They resolved to promote regional cooperation for the benefit of their people, in a spirit of mutual accommodation, with full respect for the principles of sovereign equality, independence and territorial integrity of all States and in strict adherence to the principles of non-use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. They also reiterated their commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Non- aligned Movement.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

3. The Heads of State or Government emphasised the vital importance of assessing the nature and extent of international economic inter-dependence and of the need for reviving the North/South dialogue. They noted the recent developments that had radically transformed the international development relationship deeply affecting the prospects for the economies of the seven SAARC countries. The Heads of State or

Government emphasised the need for vigorously promoting South-South economic cooperation to off-set the negative consequences of international economic developments.

4. The Heads of State or Government also exchanged views on the priorities of their respective national economies. They identified, for the further development of their economies, the importance of securing less restrictive trading and marketing opportunities for their products, more extensive technology and resource transfers to South Asia, debt relief and access on favourable and on more concessional terms to resources from multilateral financial institutions. They agreed to keep an open dialogue on these aspects through mutual consultations.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

5. The Heads of State or Government assessed current international developments in the political sphere particularly those that affected the lives of the people of South Asia. They noted the changing power structures in international relations and the reduction of confrontations and tensions, particularly among the Super Powers. These have contributed to the receding of the threat of nuclear confrontation and to agreements on disarmament measures. The Heads of State or Government hoped that these developments would restrain the pursuit of military power in all areas of the world. They expressed the hope that the peace dividend would be used for promoting further development of developing countries. They welcomed the trend towards popularly based democratic governments in different parts of the world including in South Asia.

6. The Heads of State or Government observed however that some political issues in particular the Palestine question, the final elimination of Apartheid as well as other problems remained unresolved despite efforts towards their settlement.

7. In regard to human rights, the Heads of State or Government observed that civil and political rights on the one hand and economic and social rights on the other are inter-dependent and of equal importance. Human rights issues should not therefore be viewed in narrow and exclusively political terms. In this context they underlined the need to view the efforts of States to guarantee human rights in their full context, through the pursuit of development for all citizens in conditions of stability, which in turn guarantees the enjoyment of human rights of all persons.

8. The Heads of State or Government while reaffirming their commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law, emphasised the need to ensure that development remains at the centre of international attention.

9. The Heads of State or Government agreed to participate in the on-going process of revitalising the United Nations as an effective universal instrument for addressing international issues on an equitable and democratic basis, taking full account of the interests and concerns of all states, including those in South Asia. Issues such as the protection and preservation of the environment and the equitable and sustainable management of global resources, economic development and the alleviation of poverty, the suppression of terrorism, drug trafficking and other international crimes required global responses and solutions calling for action by all states.

PROJECTION OF COLLECTIVE POSITIONS

10. In the context of the SAARC Charter-objective to strengthen cooperation among member-states in international fora, the Heads of State or Government resolved to encourage consultations among delegations of SAARC countries at all international fora and to promote articulation of joint positions where such action would be in the interests of all. They felt that the development of a collective position in international fora would accord them greater credibility and enhance the international profile of South Asia.

STRENGTHENING OF SAARC

11. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the Report presented by the Chairman of the Fifth SAARC Summit, the President of Maldives, and the Head of Government of Bangladesh on the adoption of a more businesslike and functional approach in the conduct of SAARC meetings, as well as the Report submitted by the Chairman of the Ninth Session of the Council of Ministers, the Foreign Minister of Maldives, on rationalizing SAARC activities. The Heads of State or Government also considered other proposals submitted by Member-States and by the Secretariat to make the Association a more effective instrument for the realisation of the aspirations of the people of South Asia.

12. They decided that the Standing Committee should meet in special session in Colombo in April 1992 in order to collate and study all proposals and comments in this respect and to submit a report with its recommendations to the Eleventh Session of the Council of Ministers.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

13. The Heads of State or Government re-emphasised that regional self-reliance should be resolutely promoted through closer cooperation among countries of the Association and that this would help mitigate the adverse consequences of negative international developments operating against them.

14. The Heads of State or Government requested the Standing Committee at its Special Session to study the question of cooperation between SAARC and appropriate international and regional organizations taking into account the evolution of SAARC activities in the core economic areas and to report to the Eleventh Session of the Council of Ministers.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME OF ACTION

15. The Heads of State or Government noted the progress made by the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) in expanding to cover a number of sectors crucial for the economic and social progress of the peoples of South Asia. They were of the view that the challenge facing the IPA was to achieve its identified targets within specific time periods. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the proposals made and the discussions proceeding in SAARC to heighten the effectiveness of the IPA.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

16. The Heads of State or Government accorded the highest priority to the alleviation of poverty in all South Asian countries. They affirmed that South Asia's poor could constitute a huge and potential resource, provided their basic needs were met, and they were mobilized to create economic growth. This requires that the poor are empowered and are irreversibly linked to the mainstream of development. It was noted that each South Asian country has had significant success cases of this approach to poverty alleviation.

17. Recognising that a great majority of these people remain below the poverty line, they evinced keen interest in a "Daal-Bhaat", or assured nutritional standards approach towards the satisfaction of basic needs of the South Asian poor.

18. Deeply conscious that primary education is the cutting edge in the struggle against poverty and the promotion of development, the Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the importance of attaining the target of providing primary education to all children between the ages of 6 - 14 years by the year 2000. They agreed to share their respective experiences and technical expertise to achieve this goal.

19. The Heads of State or Government decided to establish an independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation consisting of eminent persons from each SAARC member state to conduct an in-depth study of diverse experiences of the seven countries on poverty alleviation, and to report to the Seventh Summit, their recommendations on the alleviation of poverty in South Asia.

TRADE MANUFACTURES AND SERVICES

20. The Heads of State or Government were pleased to note the establishment of the Committee for Economic Cooperation as an important outcome of the Regional Study on Trade Manufactures and Services. They declared their commitment to the liberalisation of trade in the region through a step by step approach in such a manner that all countries in the region share the benefits of trade expansion equitably.

21. The Heads of State or Government approved that the Inter Governmental Group (IGG) set up on the recommendation of the Committee on Economic Cooperation should formulate and seek agreement on an institutional framework under which specific measures for trade liberalisation among SAARC member-states could be furthered. It should also examine the Sri Lankan proposal to establish a SAARC Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) by 1997. They directed that the IGG should meet as early as possible and report to the Committee on Economic Cooperation. The Heads of State or Government accepted the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka to host the Second Meeting of the Committee on Economic Cooperation at Colombo in June/July 1992 at which the report of the Inter Governmental Group would be considered.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

22. The Heads of State or Government recognised that the degradation of the environment has emerged as a major global concern. While the protection of the environment is a common imperative for all humankind, the main responsibility in this regard rests on developed countries since most of the emission of pollutants originates in those countries and since they also have greater capacity for taking or facilitating corrective measures.

23. The Heads of State or Government called on the international community to address the question of unsustainable production and consumption patterns and life-styles which lead to environmental degradation. They were also of the view that environmental standards applicable to developed countries may have excessive and unwarranted economic or social costs if applied in developing countries.

24. Adequate new and additional resources are needed for developing countries to pursue an environmentally sensitive process of development that will banish the underlying causes of environmental degradation - poverty, malnutrition and unemployment. Such resources should be transferred to developing countries on an assured basis together with environmentally sound technology at preferential and concessional terms.

25. The Heads of State or Government expressed their conviction that the framework could be laid for an equitable global partnership of all countries with a view to safeguarding the environment.

26. The Heads of State or Government noted that in preparation for the SAARC Year of the Environment, SAARC countries had taken various national as well as regional measures for the preservation of the environment.

27. The Heads of State or Government expressed their satisfaction at the completion of Regional Study on the Causes and Consequences of Natural Disasters and the Protection and Preservation of Environment. They urged the member countries to promote cooperation amongst themselves for enhancing their respective disaster management capabilities and for undertaking specific work-programmes for protection and preser-

vation of the environment. They endorsed the decision of the Council of Ministers to establish a Committee on Environment to :

- examine the recommendations of the Regional Study
- identify measures for immediate action
- decide on modalities for their implementation,

and welcomed the offer of Bangladesh to hold the first meeting of the Committee in Dhaka.

28. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the decision of the Standing Committee concerning the time frame to finalise the regional study on the " 'Greenhouse Effect' and its Impact on the Region". They urged member countries to consult each other on key issues concerning climate change, Bio-diversity and Biotechnology, a global consensus on forestry principles, transfer of environmentally sound technology, management of waste and other issues for discussion at Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee and the UNCED in 1992 so that the concerns of SAARC countries could be effectively articulated and projected, keeping in mind their respective national priorities.

29. The Government of India renewed its offer to host a Ministerial Meeting to harmonise the views of SAARC countries on these issues before UNCED 1992. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the offer.

SHELTER

30. The Heads of State or Government noted the useful activities conducted during 1991 which was observed as SAARC Year of Shelter. They decided to continue to work towards the global objective of "Shelter for All by the Year 2000".

31. The Heads of State or Government were of the view that Governments should play the critical role of facilitator and supporter of the initiatives of the people and non- governmental agencies in the field of shelter. In this role, they should be involved in the provision of affordable sites with secure tenure, making housing finance available on an affordable and sustainable basis, providing infrastructure development such as water supply and sanitation, energy and waste disposal, increasing the supply of building materials at reasonable prices using indigenous resources, removing constraints to building activities, and creating maximum oppor-

tunities for public participation in decision making and management of shelter activities in the overall context of poverty alleviation. Such activities would be facilitated by the exchange of experience, personnel, research and information among the SAARC countries.

32. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the recommendation on the establishment of a shelter information network to be called "SHELTERNET".

CHILDREN

33. The Heads of State or Government accorded the highest priority to the question of child survival, protection and development. They welcomed the adoption of a Plan of Action on Children for South Asia which incorporated relevant recommendations of the World Summit on Children.

34. The Heads of State or Government noted in this context that some member countries had completed their national Plans of Action and urged other member countries to complete their respective Plans. They also urged Member- States to ensure coordinated follow-up action on their respective Plans.

35. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the offer of Sri Lanka to host a Conference on Children in South Asia in 1992 to consider implementation of the regional Plan of Action.

36. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the adoption of the Plan of Action for 1991 - 2000 A.D. as the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child. They requested the Council of Ministers to ensure an annual review of the status of implementation of the Plan of Action during the decade.

TERRORISM

37. The Heads of State or Government expressed serious concern on the spread of terrorism in the region affecting the security and stability of all member-states and unequivocally condemned all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal. They deplored all such acts for their impact on life, property, socio-economic development and political stability as well as on regional and international peace and cooperation.

38. They recognised that cooperation among SAARC States was vital if terrorism was to be prevented and eliminated from the region. In this regard they urged member-states to take all necessary measures to give full effect to their obligations under the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. They stressed in particular, the urgent need for the expeditious enactment of enabling legislation by those member-states which had not yet done so, for the implementation of the Convention and the need for a constant dialogue and interaction among the concerned agencies of member-states, including submission of periodic recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

SECURITY OF SMALL STATES

39. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the initiative of the Government of the Republic of Maldives in drawing the attention of the international community to the protection and security of small states. They noted with satisfaction that the resolution submitted by the Maldives to the United Nations during the 46th Session of the General Assembly and co-sponsored by 65 countries including all the members of SAARC was adopted without a vote. They agreed that small states may be particularly vulnerable to external threats and acts of interference in their internal affairs and that they merit special measures of support in safeguarding their sovereign independence, territorial integrity and the welfare of their people.

DRUG TRAFFICKING

40. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction the increasing regional cooperation in combating the problem of drug trafficking and drug abuse. They expressed serious concern over the growing linkages between drug trafficking, international arms trade and terrorist activities. While expressing satisfaction at the signing of the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances at the Fifth SAARC Summit at Male, they urged member-states which had not yet done so to ratify the Convention for its entry into force. They also recognized the need for greater cooperation, including the submission of periodic recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACT

41. The Heads of State or Government recalled that important initiatives had been taken at the Bangalore and Kathmandu Summits which had sub-

sequently resulted in the increased involvement of the peoples of South Asia in the process of Regional Cooperation. They welcomed the steps being taken by business organisations/professional bodies, scholars, academics, National Cultural Councils and the media in South Asia to form regional entities/ bodies. They called on the Standing Committee to expedite the formulation of guidelines for extending recognition to such groups and bodies.

FUND FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS

42. The Heads of State or Government welcomed the setting up of a SAARC Fund for Regional Projects (SFRP) for identification and development of regional projects. They noted that the Fund would be managed by a Regional Council of Development Financing Institutions of the SAARC Member States and that the First Meeting of the Council would take place in India.

SOUTH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

43. The Heads of State or Government requested the Secretary-General of SAARC to set up a panel of experts to examine the proposal of His Majesty the King of Bhutan to undertake a pre-feasibility study for the establishment of a South Asian Development Fund, taking into account the views of all member-states.

SAARC VISA EXEMPTION SCHEME

44. The Heads of State or Government noted with satisfaction that the Scheme in regard to the entitled categories of Members of Parliament, Judges of the Supreme Court, Heads of national academic institutions and the accompanying spouses and dependent children will become operational from 1st March 1992. They called for expeditious action to implement the scheme as well as to consider other categories eligible for exemeption.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

45. The Heads of State or Government were conscious of the vast potential being afforded by current advances in scientific research for the application of science and technology towards the well-being of the peoples of

South Asia. They agreed that for the South Asian region to derive the maximum benefit, scientific and technological cooperation should transcend national frontiers.

46. Recalling the decision of the Male Summit to institutionalise cooperation in the field of bio-technology, they welcomed the proposal for the establishment of a networking arrangement between Research and Development Centres in the member-states as an important step in advancing such cooperation. They also welcomed the emphasis on organised study tours, workshops and seminars proposed in the identified areas of cooperation in the field of science and technology.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SAARC HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT

47. The Heads of State or Government gratefully accepted the offer of the Government of Bangladesh to host the the Seventh SAARC Summit in 1992.

48. The Heads of State or Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Pakistan expressed their deep appreciation for the exemplary manner in which the President of Sri Lanka had discharged his responsibilities as Chairman of the Meeting. They expressed their profound gratitude for the warm and gracious hospitality extended to them by the Government and the people of Sri Lanka and for the excellent arrangements made for the Meeting.